

## **WHY YOU SHOULD MEDIATE YOUR DIVORCE**

- Litigated, non-mediated divorces have significantly more post-judgment modifications and take longer from complaint to judgment. (Marcus, et al, 1999)
- Fathers who used mediation to resolve custody disputes were more involved with their children one year after the agreement than fathers who used litigation. Even after 12 years these fathers remained more involved. (Emery, 1994)
- One year post agreement, cooperation with the ex-spouse was reported for 60% of those who reached a settlement through mediation and for only 10% of those who reached a settlement through litigation. (Pearson & Thoennes, 1984)
- Couples choosing adversarial divorce litigation spent 134% more (more than double) on total fees than couples choosing a comprehensive mediation process, controlling for case complexity, hostility, etc. (Kelly, 1990)
- Mediated agreements are more likely to contain provisions for the shared payment of college or higher education costs for children of the marriage. (Marcus et al., 1999)
- Persons who reach agreements on custody and visitation through mediation are twice as likely to report improved relationships with the other parent as those who reach agreements through litigation. (Person & Thoennes, 1986)
- 55% of 1,532 parents surveyed who reached agreements through mediation reported that it helped them work together as parents. (Kelly, 2004)
- The average divorce in the U.S. costs between \$15,000 - \$30,000. The average mediated divorce costs less than \$5,000. (Leah Hoffman, MSNBC.com)

(Modified from information originally compiled and circulated by Dr. Susan Raines, Professor of Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University. Used with permission).

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